

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing system having a host computer capable of communicatively connecting an image input-output device, the image processing system
5 comprising:

a color space conversion unit for converting color space of an image which is an input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined
10 color space;

a resolution conversion unit for converting resolution of the image which is the input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined resolution;

15 a determination unit for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and a signal of an image converted into said predetermined color space and predetermined resolution; and

an image processing control unit for controlling
20 processing of said image based on the extent of the match as determined by the determination unit,

the color space conversion unit, the resolution conversion unit, the determination unit and the image processing control unit being run on the host computer
25 operating software (OS).

2. The image processing system according to

claim 1, wherein the image processing control unit generates a warning if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

5 3. The image processing system according to claim 2, further comprising:

 a dialog box display unit for displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;

 a record archiving unit for archiving the operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and

15 a discontinuance unit for discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing in response to said dialog box.

 4. The image processing system according to claim 1, wherein the particular image is an original image whose reproduction is prohibited.

 5. The image processing system according to claim 1, further comprising: a driver for the image input-output device that runs on the host computer's software.

6. The image processing system according to claim 5, wherein the color space conversion unit and the resolution conversion unit convert image signals output from said driver.

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7. The image processing system according to claim 6, wherein said image input-output device either a scanner that scans an original image or a printer that outputs an image onto a recording medium.

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8. A control method for an image processing system having a host computer capable of communicatively connecting an image input-output device, the control method comprising:

15 a color space conversion step for converting color space of an image which is an input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined color space;

 a resolution conversion step for converting
20 resolution of the image which is the input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined resolution;

 a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and a signal of
25 an image converted into said predetermined color space and said predetermined resolution; and

 an image processing control step for controlling

processing of said image based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,
the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image
5 processing control step being executed by the host computer operating software (OS).

9. The control method according to claim 8,
wherein a warning is generated at the image processing
10 control step if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

10. The control method according to claim 9,
further comprising:
15 a dialog box display unit for displaying a dialog box used for inputting instructions as to whether or not to continue with processing if the extent of the match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold value;
20 a record archiving unit for archiving the operating record if an instruction is given to continue with processing in response to said dialog box; and
a discontinuance unit for discarding the image if an instruction is given to discontinue with processing
25 in response to said dialog box.

11. A computer-executable software control

program for causing a computer capable of communicatively connecting to an image input-output device to function as an image processing system, the control program comprising program code for:

5 a color space conversion step for converting color space of an image which is an input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined color space;

 a resolution conversion step for converting
10 resolution of the image which is the input-output target of the image input-output device into a predetermined resolution;

 a determination step for determining the extent of a match between a particular image and a signal of
15 an image converted into said predetermined color space and said predetermined resolution; and

 an image processing control step for controlling processing of said image based on the extent of the match as determined in the determination step,

20 the color space conversion step, the resolution conversion step, the determination step and the image processing control step being executed by run on the host computer operating software (OS).

25 12. The control program according to claim 11, wherein, a warning is generated at the determination step if the extent of the match meets or exceeds a

predetermined threshold value.

13. The control program according to claim 12,
wherein the determination step further comprises:

5 a dialog box display step of displaying a dialog
box used for inputting instructions as to whether or
not to continue with processing if the extent of the
match meets or exceeds the predetermined threshold
value;

10 a record archiving step of archiving an operating
record if an instruction is given to continue with
processing in response to said dialog box; and

 a discontinuance step of discarding the image if
an instruction is given to discontinue with processing
15 in response to said dialog box.

14. A computer-readable medium having a
computer-executable software control program stored
thereon, the control program causing a computer capable
20 of communicatively connecting to an image input-output
device to function as an image processing system, the
control program comprising program code for:

 a color space conversion step for converting
color space of an image which is an input-output target
25 of the image input-output device into a predetermined
color space;

 a resolution conversion step for converting

resolution of the image which is the input-output
target of the image input-output device into a
predetermined resolution;

5 a determination step for determining the extent
of a match between a particular image and a signal of
an image converted into said predetermined color space
and said predetermined resolution; and

an image processing control step for controlling
processing of said image based on the extent of the
10 match as determined in the determination step,

the color space conversion step, the resolution
conversion step, the determination step and the image
processing control step being executed by run on the
host computer operating software (OS).

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